

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Original): Crosslinked fine particles having a Tg of 100°C or higher and an amount of remaining double bonds of 0.01 mmol/g or more, which are obtainable by polymerizing a compound (a₁) having one or two radical-polymerizable ethylenic unsaturated groups in the molecule and a compound (a₂) having three or more (meth)acryloyl groups in the molecule.

Claim 2 (Original): Crosslinked fine particles according to claim 1, which have an average primary-particle diameter in a range of 10 to 1,000 nm.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): Crosslinked fine particles according to claim 1 [or 2], which have a percentage of cubical expansion in methyl ethyl ketone at 25°C of 300% or less as calculated by the following equation:

$$V = (R_2)^3 / (R_1)^3 \times 100$$

wherein V is percentage of cubical expansion (%), R₁ is the primary-particle diameter of the crosslinked fine particles (A) measured in water at 25°C by a dynamic light scattering method, and R₂ is the primary-particle diameter of the crosslinked fine particles (A) measured in methyl ethyl ketone at 25°C by the dynamic light scattering method.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): Crosslinked fine particles according to [any one of claims 1 to 3,] Claim 1, wherein the proportions of the component (a₁) and the component (a₂) are as follows: in the total proportion (100 wt%) of the component (a₁) and the component (a₂), the proportion of the component (a₂) ranges from 55 to 95 wt%, and the proportion of the component (a₂) ranges from 5 to 45 wt%.

Claims 5-15: (Cancelled).

Claim 16 (New): Crosslinked fine particles according to Claim 3, which have a percentage of cubical expansion in methyl ethyl ketone at 25° of 300% or less as calculated by the following equation”

$$V = (R_2)^3 / (R_1)^3 \times 100$$

wherein V is percentage of cubical expansion (%), R_1 is the primary-particle diameter of the crosslinked fine particles (A) measured in water at 25°C by a dynamic light scattering method, and R_2 is the primary-particle diameter of the crosslinked fine particles (A) measured in methyl ethyl ketone at 25°C by the dynamic light scattering method.

Claim 17 (New): Crosslinked fine particles according to Claim 2, wherein the proportions of the component (a_1) and the component (a_2) are as follows: in the total proportion (100 wt%) of the component (a_1) and the component (a_2), the proportion of the component (a_2) ranges from 55 to 95 wt%, and the proportion of the component (a_2) ranges from 5 to 45 wt%.